



Charles E. Moore
Editor



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"THE DAMNED STUFF CALLED ALCOHOL."

I believe that alcohol, to a certain degree, demoralizes those who make it, those who sell it, and those who drink it.

I believe from the time it issues from the coiled and poisonous worm of the distillery until it empties into the hell of crime, death and dishonor, it demoralizes everybody that touches it.

I do not believe that anybody can contemplate the subject without becoming prejudiced against this liquid crime.

All you have to do is to think of the deaths—of the suicides, of the insanity, of the poverty, of the ignorance, of the distress, of the little children tugging at the faded dresses of weeping and despairing wives, asking for bread; of the men of genius it has wrecked; of the millions who have struggled with imaginary serpents produced by this devilish thing.

And when you think of the jails, of the almshouses, of the prisons, of the scaffolds upon either bank, I do not wonder that every thoughtful man is prejudiced against the damned stuff called alcohol.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

"Keep Church and State forever separate."—Grant.

"In no sense whatsoever is this government founded upon the Christian religion."—Washington.

"The divorce between Church and State should be absolute."—Garfield.

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NEWS NOTES

FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The most expensive collection of clerical bric-a-bac ever assembled on this continent is the Presbyterian General Assembly now in session at Los Angeles, Calif. This city of angels seems quite an appropriate place to hold it, for in religious parlance the next thing to an angel is a saint. No city on earth is so favored as Los Angeles is at present peopled with angels and saints.

I never met an angel or any one that was second cousin to one. The saints I have known have been like other people, sometimes did not impress me as favorably as ordinary mortals.

The saints now assembled in the city of angels are making a heavy draft on the pocket-books of ordinary sinners who are seeking heaven by the Presbyterian route. The press announces that this General Assembly will cost the church \$75,000, in other words it is costing \$7,000 a day, but it may be worth it, for they have finally ousted the infant damnation from the creed for good.

Infant damnation is taken from the creed in the following words:

"That concerning those who are saved in Christ the doctrine of God's eternal decree is held in harmony with the doctrine of His love to all mankind."

"That it is not to be regarded as teaching that any who die in infancy are lost. We believe that all dying in infancy are included in the election of grace and are regenerated and saved by Christ, through the Spirit who works where and how He pleases."

"Rejoice and be glad."

The babies are saved.

But what a pity this salvation did not come sooner. Millions of infants that were "elected to eternal damnation from the foundation of the world" have added to their eternal torment the regret that they were born before the Los Angeles General Assembly, and millions yet to be born will have cause to bless the delegates to this meeting in the city of angels. The old Confession of Faith paid respect to the Pope of Rome in lurid language, but the New Confession throws a bouquet of dog fennel to the gentleman on the Tiber in these words:

"The Lord Jesus Christ is the only head of the church and the claim of man to be the vicar of Christ and the head of the church is unscriptural, without warrant in fact, and is a usurpation dishonoring to the Lord Jesus Christ."

There may be a little more policy in this than Christian love, since the world is lining up in two columns for the final conflict between Rome and Rationalism. In that day Protestantism of every brand will be so disintegrated it cannot be found.

Here is another overture the Presbyterians make to the Papacy:

"Resolved. That this General Assembly hereby enjoins all ministers under its care and authority to refuse to perform the marriage ceremony in the cases of divorced persons, except as such persons have been divorced upon the grounds and for causes recognized as Scriptural in the standards of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America."

They may yet be forced to declare with the Roman Catholics the indissolubility of the marriage tie for any cause.

Strange how a lot of men will have the audacity to legislate on the laws of marriage and divorce. One would think that men alone were parties to the contract, and in millions of cases it is a great pity they are not. A few million women would thereby be relieved of an incubus that wreck their happiness and blight their lives.

One of the most enjoyable things of this General Assembly was an excursion to Long Beach, which came near throwing the saints into spasms. Fifteen hundred Presbyterian preachers and elders attended and under the inspiring music of the band, forty couples swung out on the dancing platform in a mazy waltz. The saints were paralyzed at such worldly conduct, and they could only head off the dancers by silencing the band. No such catastrophe has befallen the Presbyterian church since that related in the old song:

"And a Presbyterian preacher
Danced like the devil
At McCarty's hall."

It is only a woman's idea but I have often thought if the Presbyterians had done less with burning, flogging, imprisoning and persecuting and more dancing, the world would be better off. Of course the members of the "Creed Revision Committee" must have held personal conferences with God to learn "his will and good pleasure" regarding revision. Perhaps God has repented of somethings he decreed should be in the old confession.

The Bible says that "God once repented that he had made man," and this may be the day of His second repentance for being so hard on his helpless creatures. Surely the millions who were elected to eternal punishment before this revision have

were unfortunate that they lived too soon.

The General Assembly is wisely considering the abolition of three of their theological seminaries, and the idea is advanced that \$1,800,000 is too much money invested for the education of Presbyterian preachers. Of course abolish them all, and put the money in manual training schools, bath houses and soap factories, the world would be greatly benefited.

What ever else the Los Angeles General Assembly will do relating to spiritual things and the will of Almighty God, their trust in the Almighty dollar will be emphasized, and their best effort expended in devising the best methods to tap the pockets of the laity. News from the Los Angeles General Assembly will be awaited with interest.

JOSEPHINE K. HENRY.

Versailles, Ky.

PREACHER

GIVES THE PREACHERS THE HOT END OF IT.

Cincinnati, Ohio, June 7.—"A Morning with the Preachers." At the Vine Street Congregational church, the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, told of a morning which he spent with the members of a ministerial association, discussing social problems. Mr. Bigelow said in part:

"It was in the city of J—. I happened to be there for a course of lectures and accepted an invitation to speak at the preachers' Monday morning meeting."

"My theme was the labor problem. I attempted to show that millions of our fellow creatures, by reason of their scant wage, are compelled to work and live in conditions which stunt the mind and discourage, if not prohibit, the formation of moral character. I declared that it was the plain duty of the preachers to encourage every wise and just plan of economic betterment, in order that the discouragements to right living may be diminished and a more wholesome environment provided for 'the masses.'"

"According to the custom in this association the address of the day was followed by a general discussion. Then it was my turn to listen. That general discussion threw no light on the labor problem. But it threw a flood of light on the preachers."

"Without the slightest shade of coloring I want to report the substance of their remarks on this important theme."

"One preacher, with breezy optimism, brushed aside my contention as to low wages and bad conditions, with the assertion that the miners in the neighborhood of J— were getting \$34 a week."

"It seems that he had heard of some miner who was said to have made that much. He could not tell how many weeks during the year he had made that. He could not tell how many, if any, helpers this miner had with whom he was compelled to divide his \$34. It is true that the special commission, appointed by the President reported that the average wage of the contract miner is from fourteen to sixteen dollars a week. This commission ought to know. But this preacher thought the commission must have been mistaken because he had heard of a miner who got more. How truthful men are of any evidence which justifies their prejudices!"

"The next speaker was still more optimistic. His assertion was that laborers in and around J— were making from \$2.50 to \$10 a day. 'Moreover,' said he, 'if there are a few who do not get enough, we can't remedy the matter. I believe Baer and Morgan and Carnegie and Rockefeller are good conscientious Christians and are doing as well as they can for the workingmen. What do we know about business? How can we give them any suggestions? I tell you the preachers are all right. The trouble is with the people. They need more of Jesus in their heart. That's what's the matter. If the people will treat Jesus right, he will treat the people right.' This remark elicited vigorous Amens from the brethren."

Almost every preacher who took part in the discussion voiced this sentiment that the thing needed was not economic betterment, but individual salvation. One and all they declared: 'The great need of the workingman is Jesus Christ and him crucified.'

"What truth is there in this threadbare phrase? If a workingman were dissipated and conversion to Christianity made him a sober, to that extent his economic condition would be improved. But suppose he is already a sober and hardworking man. How will his conversion raise his wages? There can be no general and permanent increase in wages save through legislation which destroys monopoly and thereby increases the opportunities for remunerative employment. But that cannot be done without a conversion to political economy. Will conversion to Christianity teach a man political economy? Will it teach him to run an engine? Will it teach him to pilot a steamer? It requires thought to exercise intelligently the rights of citizenship. The man who does not give earnest thought to the problem of improving the social conditions of his fellowmen is a bad citizen, although he may be a good church member or even a preacher."

"Another preacher referred in his



REV. HERBERT S. BIGELOW.

remarks, to the parable of the man who, having been relieved of one devil, was possessed of seven other devils. The application he made of the parable was this. The workingmen many of them get beggarly wage. That he conceded. He affirmed that they ought to get more. Indeed he went so far as to assert that it was the duty of the preachers to see that they got more. 'But,' said he, 'suppose we should increase their pay, what then? There would be just that much more that they would have to squander on the saloon and theater. If we did nothing more than to increase their wage we would make them seven times more devilish. Let us preachers demand more pay for the workingmen, but let us also demand that we have some control over their wages; let us have charge of their money; let us save it and invest it for them, for we know better than they how to take care of it.'

"These preachers look upon themselves as the shepherds of their flock, until they get to thinking of the people as sheep. They are long on benevolence and short on liberty. They never doubt the fitness to manage the affairs of others. They would be foster fathers rather than brothers to the multitude."

"The preacher who thus delivered himself was one of the leading clergymen of the city. If the teachers are capable of such childish utterances,

what can be expected of their pupils? If the light that is in thee be darkness how great is that darkness! If the men from whom light is supposed to come are so hopelessly ignorant, what chance is there for the illumination of the mass?"

"Still another preacher deprecated the agitation of these questions since there was danger of the poor becoming discontented."

"When Hagar fled from her jealous and cruel mistress and took refuge in the desert it is said that she was visited by the angel of the Lord. 'And the angel of the Lord said unto her, return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.' That was a bogus angel. To the workingmen who are trying to escape from a condition of virtual slavery this preacher like that false angel would say: 'Return to your masters and submit yourselves under their hands.'

"Too long that has been the cowardly advice of the clergy. And still the preachers wonder why workingmen shun the church!"

LITTLE ITEMS ABOUT RELIGION.

A millionaire infidel named Norton, has lately died in Louisville, Ky. He gave the money to build the Norton Infirmary and also the money to build a school.

In his will he said that he wanted no religious services at his funeral but wanted his remains taken to Cincinnati to be cremated, and to be carried in a Pullman car with a number of his friends and plenty of champagne. So far as I know Mr. Norton is the largest giver to charity that ever lived in Louisville, and still the Christians will ask "What good has any infidel ever done for the world?"

Recently at Richmond, Ky., the attorneys on both sides of a case asked Judge Smith to retire from the bench during the trial of a case, offering as their ground of objection that he was a Democrat and a member of the Christian church. Judge Smith retired. The plain implication is that, in Kentucky, to be a Democrat and a member of that church—known also as Campbellite—makes a man, in some cases, unfit to trust as a judge.

CONVENT CRUELITIES.

Is the title of a pamphlet by a former monk. Besides the introduction, the pamphlet discusses "How Girls Become the Brides of Christ," "A Peep Into the Convent," "The Convent Horror," "Taking the Veil," etc. Its tales are thrilling. For a sample copy send 10 cents in silver to

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APPLIED

CHRISTIANITY--THE MAS-SACRE AT KISHINEFF.

By HARRIET M. CLOSZ.

We hear much now-a-days about the Golden Rule taught by the pagan sage Confucius, and attempt to read the title to practical Christianity by its precept, but in doing so we overreach the mark and become humanitarians instead of Christians. Perhaps this latest Christian horror in Russia will bring the nations to a realization that so long as we accept the Bible as a guide and Jehovah as our God and exemplar, we are under obligations to commit the most dastardly and heinous crimes against men and the most monstrous and beastly assaults upon women.

We do not expect decisions in the courts of today in direct opposition to the statute books, then why should the nations stand aghast at this Russian massacre by Christians when Jehovah the great law-giver instigated and carried out innumerable diabolisms of the same kind? Now there was David, that mighty man of valor, the man after God's own heart, the man of many immoralities who "saved neither man nor woman alive to bring tidings to Gath."—1 Sam. xxvii: 11.

The man who "came unto the house of the Lord and worshipped," and immediately fell upon the children of Ammon and "brought forth the spill of the city in great abundance. And then brought forth the people that were therein and put them under saws and harrows of iron and under axes of iron and made them pass through the brick-kiln, and thus did he to all the cities of the children of Ammon."—II Sam. xli: 30-31. Remembering his work this little massacre of a few hundred Jews seems quite insignificant when we refer to the wholesale affairs that are recorded in the inspired book.

The Associated Press records a number of the horrors perpetrated by the Russian Christians as told by Dr. Doroschewski, national hospital physician at Kisheneff, after he had examined the victims. Here is one: "A Jewess named Lura Fonarschi was brought here with two nails seven inches long driven into her brain through her eyes."

indeed though done in the heat of rioting, but turn to Judges iv: 21, and read of the woman Jael's deliberate treachery. "Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent and took a hammer in her hand and went softly unto him and smote the nail into his temples and fastened it into the ground for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died."

The following chapter declares that this woman "smote off his head after she had stricken and pierced through his temples," and her praises were loudly sung for the act.

Further details state that "A Jew named Charifon lost his upper and lower lips which were cut away with a kitchen knife after which his tongue and windpipe were pulled out through his mouth with pincers. The ears of another named Selvzer were cut off and his head battered in twelve places. A carpenter was surprised at his work and both of his hands were sawed off with his own saw." But refer to the accounts above mentioned of David in which thousands met this same awful fate instead of only two or three Jews. A couple of years ago a similar massacre occurred on the Chinese frontier and 5,000 Chinamen were drowned or had their brains beaten out with clubs, and yet civilized nations listened to another blood-thirsty Russian Christian Duchess Vladimir proclaim in public that while a Chinaman should be left alive while there is a Russian to kill him."

These royal perverts are keeping very close to the divine guide and applying Christianity in a way calculated to open the eyes of the blind. The account continues: "A Jewish girl was assaulted by several of the brutes who then cut out her eyes with a pocket knife. One woman after trying to defend her children was thrown on the pavement, dismembered and feathers and horse hair stuffed into her body." We shudder to read these horrors and yet we read without the tremor of a muscle the account in Num. xxxi of the spilling of the Midianites under the direction of Moses and Eleazar, the priest, in which thirty-two thousand virgins were saved alive for the use of God's chosen people, the Israelites, and we are compelled to admit that this Jew baiting affair is mighty insignificant and that we are still a long distance behind the exploits of our revered Jehovah.

Those of us who deplore the assaults made upon women should read the account of the Levite who sought to escape personal injury by turning his wife over to the Benjaminites for a vile purpose, and when arriving at home, "He took a knife and laid hold on his concubine and divided her together with her bones into twelve pieces and sent her into all coasts of Israel."—Judges xix. The incidental losing of an ear or lips or tongue or limbs is overshadowed by this gruesome tale that bears the seal of inspiration.

A little while ago Baron Von Ketteler was tortured by Chinese and Christendom resounded with protests against the Pagan retaliation, and

the old celestial empire was forced to send an envoy to the Christian Emperor of Germany with a personal apology, but who demands redress from the Christian Czar for the inhumanities committed against Jews? No one! And why should we expect it so long as we promulgate a doctrine which has produced men like the pious Prince Ferdinand? He Christianized Europe at the sacrifice of 12,000,000 lives and declared: "Better a desert than a country peopled with heretics." The Russians declare that the Jews must become Christians or leave the country. This leaves an alternative, though Pope Sixtus IX, who established the Holy Inquisition, gave only the choice of becoming Christians or being tortured to death. The Jews should, however, take warning from the fate of the 10,000 victims of Charles IX and his mother who planned the massacre of St. Bartholomew's eve, or they should recall the holy charge of Peter the Hermit, and the desolate march of the crusades with death awaiting on the journey or at either end of the line. The despised Jew of today with all his hardships fares better than did the women with ideas only a little over a century ago. The divine revelation declares: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," and tens of thousands of women paid the Christian penalty.

The inconsistency of the Czar Nicholas in calling a peace conference and in declaring for religious freedom throughout his empire is only paralleled by the inconsistencies and contradictions in its holy book from which he draws his supply of inspiration, and his policy of banishment for the lovers of freedom, conquest of weaker nations, imprisonment of political suspects, intrigues with court attaches and humiliation of women chattels is in perfect accord with the teaching of the Christian church bolstered by the priesthood and backed by the God of the Bible.

An Iowa editor recently remarked in referring to this massacre of Jews, "No Christianized people could have been parties to the horrible massacre." Another says, "We need more Christianity in Russia."

They are both mistaken. It is the "Christianized people" who perpetrate the most horrible cruelties against each other and against the heathen and history will bear me out in the statement. It will be claimed, of course, that such results do not flow from the right Christian spirit, but the records show facts and must be accepted, and when our Christian

spirit shall be damned, we need search no further for the spirit of the inquisition. I deny that we need more Christianity in Russia or any where else. We have too much of it already. The practice of its tenets has placed the deadly dagger of annihilation in the heart of nations, poisoned the milk of human kindness, made fiends of parents and out-casts of children. Its applied dogmas have filled prisons and brothels and barracks and mad-houses with unfortunate, ignorant fear and faith filled fanatics, and so long as we cling to its infamous incongruities, Jew baiting and cruelties of all kinds are bound to continue.

When a mediator stands ready to forgive wrong acts upon a simple promise to believe in Him as the immaculately begotten son of God we should expect that injustice will be done in his name. Why will people remain blind to the fact that Humanity and not Christianity is needed in this old world of ours?

Helpfulness and justice and knowledge are what we need instead of ignorant faith and belief in divinely declared dogmas.

A MODERN MIRACLE.

The Hartford Day Spring says: Two years ago a Poleander, who lives on Nubbin Ridge, Calif., swallowed a grain of wheat. Last week he was attacked with a fit of coughing and coughed up a fifty pound sack of flour and 100 pounds of bran.

Ancient Miracle.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was in this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.—St. Matthew 1, 18. Truth is mighty and will prevail.

A. JOHNSON.

San Francisco Calif.

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